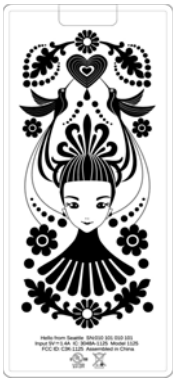
CATALINA ESTRADA

As a child, Catalina Estrada marveled at the lush and vibrant gardens of her native country, Colombia. Now, an internationally successful designer and illustrator living in Barcelona, Estrada has not forgotten her roots. This wide-eyed wonder is still evident in her creations – with explosions of color anchored by an elegant use of symmetrical composition. Catalina's other influences include Latin American folklore, Japanese manga, music, literature, and fairytales. "I put lots of emotion and color into every image I create. I also love to travel, and I've been lucky enough to visit many countries which have greatly influenced my work."

Currently, her client list includes Coke, Nike, and Honda, with designs also featured on Paul Frank's 2007 clothing line in Japan.

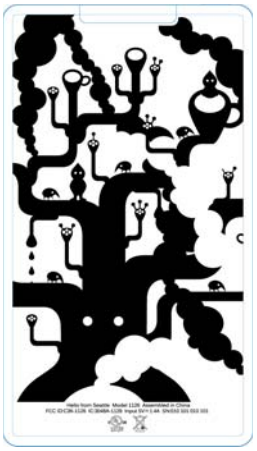


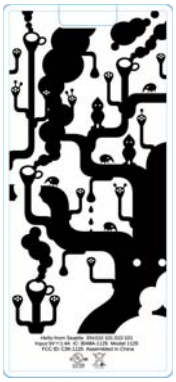
CHISATO SHINYA

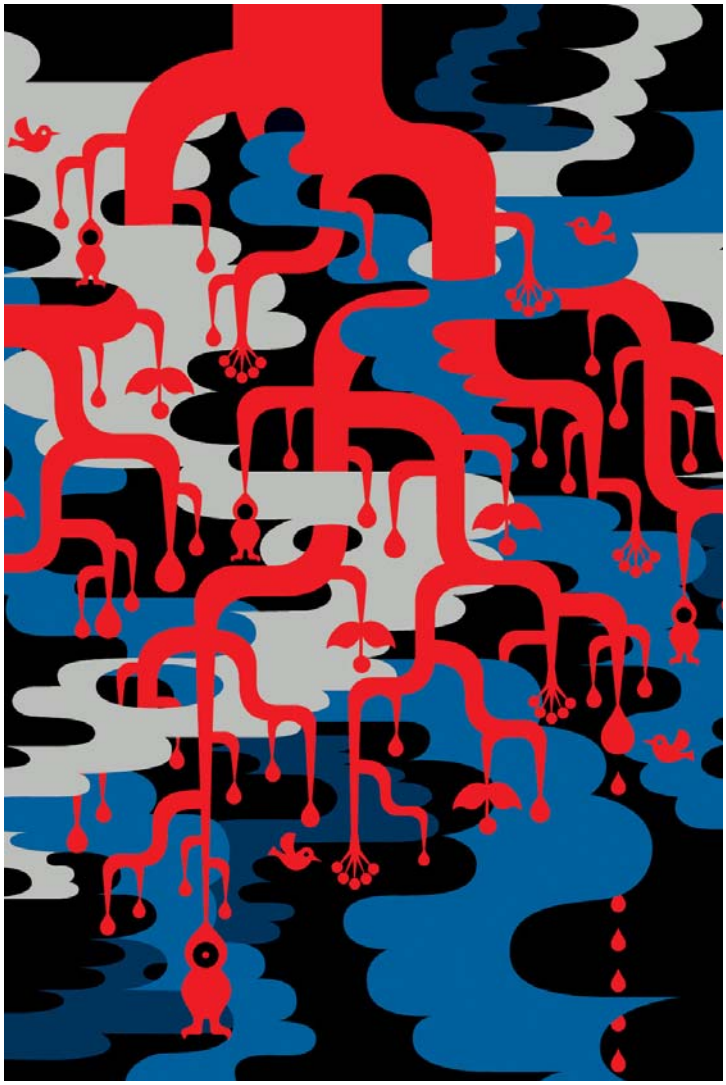
Chistato Shinya, formerly known as Kinpro, grew up in Sapporo, Japan, and has no plans to leave as of yet. Inspired by the Sapporo countryside, Shinya started drawing at an early age and never stopped. “My imagination spends a lot of time in the forest because I’ve lived at the foot of a mountain since I was a child.”

Shinya garnered international attention from her contributions to Grimm, a contemporary version of Grimm’s Fairy Tales published by Die Gestalten Verlag. Apart from her illustrations, she designed three rooms at the hotel FOX in Copenhagen and is best known in Japan for her Curione character for The Hokkaido Shimbun Press.

These days, Shinya is a giant in the advertising and print world. Her clean and vibrant character designs can be found on everything from wallpaper to coasters.







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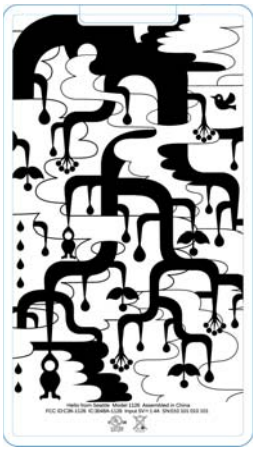
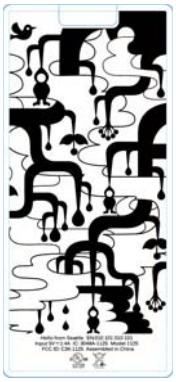
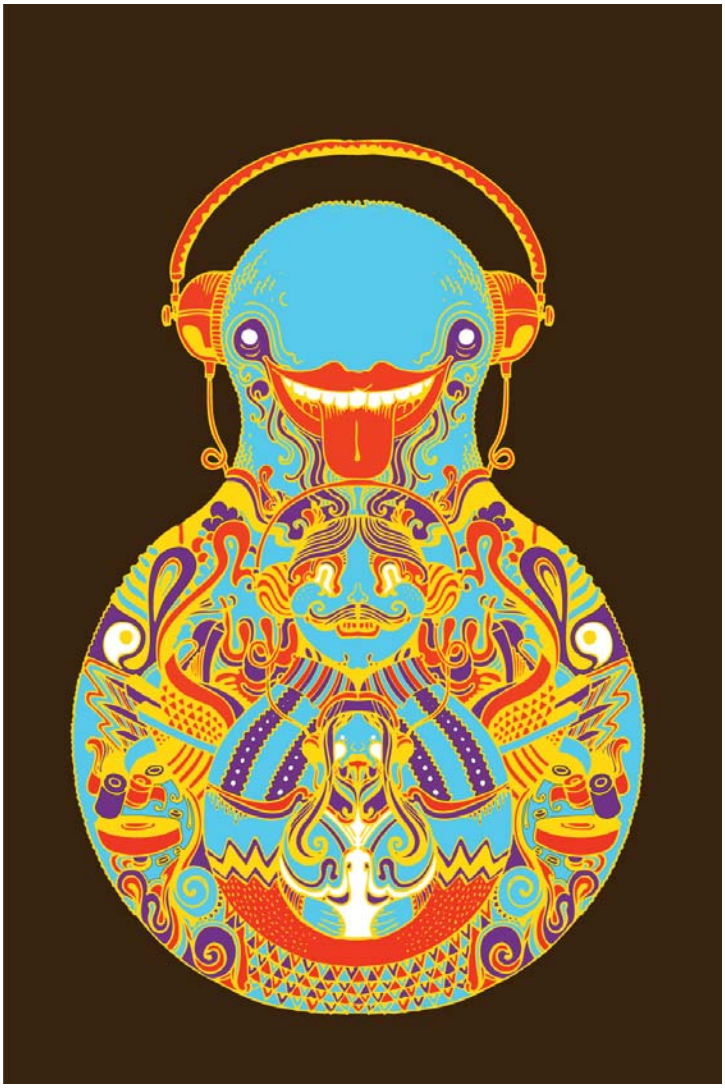


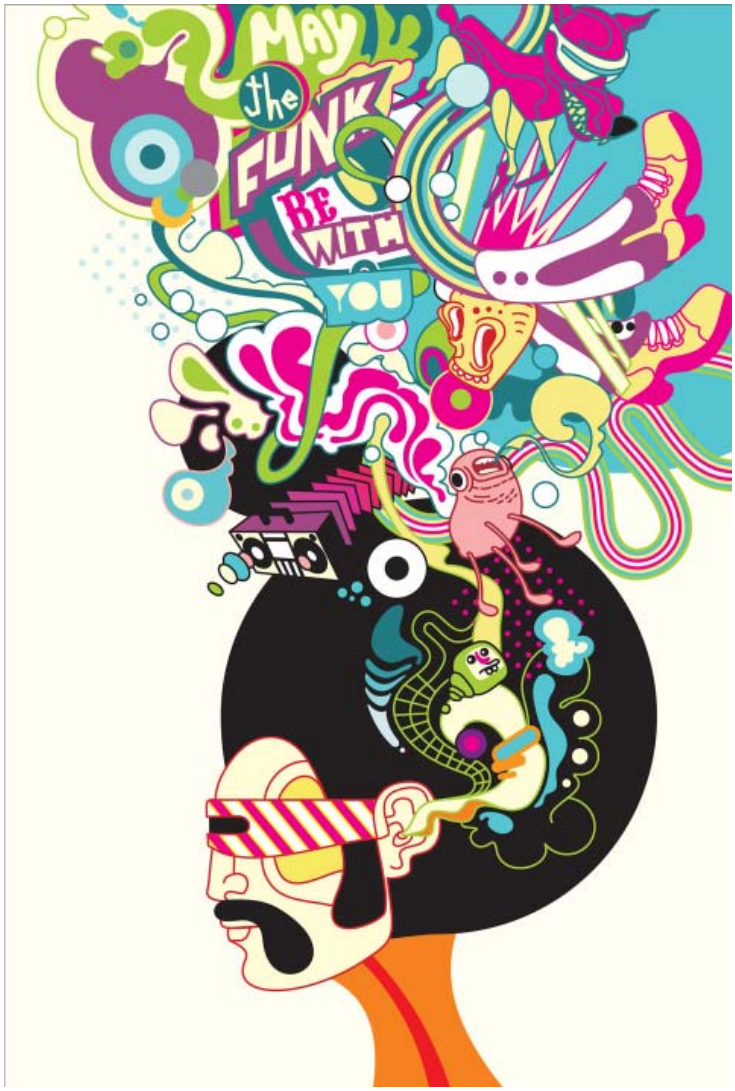




COLLETIVO

Since 2003, Brazilian design studio Collectivo has left its unique impression within the fields of Typography, Illustration, and Design. The Sao Paolo-based group collaborates with a broad spectrum of clients ranging from Cavalera to Nickelodeon, while introducing exhilarating new styles that draw on collage, pop art, and psychedelic.

Principals Fabio Couto and Marcelo Roncatti strive to take down the same old patterns and bring projects that defy traditional concepts. Originality is their keyword. Whether crafting a brand identity or designing a new graphics package, Collectivo strive to make each project its own unique creative process.



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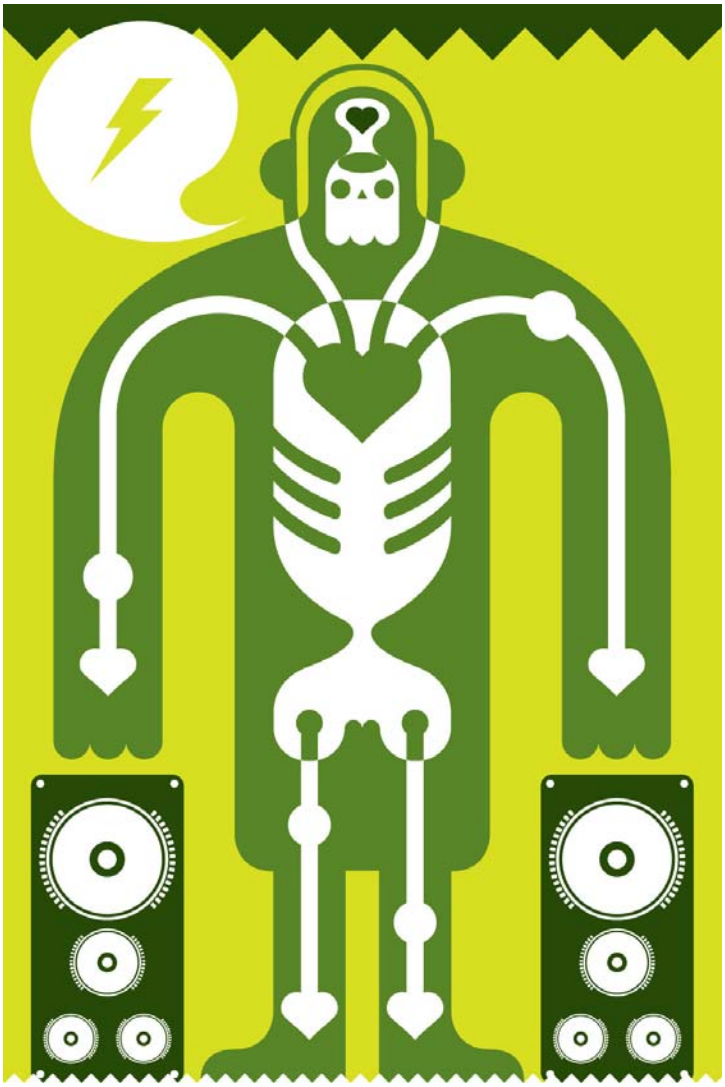

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DARVIN VIDA

Darvin Roca Vida was born in Long Beach CA and raised under the rainy skies of Seattle. Art began early in his life, when his artist mother refused to continue drawing the Black Tiger Squadrons from Star Blazers because he would scribble explosions over them. It was then that Darvin realized that he was an artist. In the late '80s, he saw a Polaroid of street graffiti from San Diego, which sparked his creativity in a whole new direction. The Fine Art of street graffiti was short lived though, due to morning nose bleeds and the fear of iron bars.

Today Darvin mixes his early influences with the cultural art from his Filipino heritage. He works with a wide variety of mediums, including sculpting, painting, etching, wood burning, and screen printing. Aside from his art, Darvin enjoys walks on the south end of Seattle with his wife and two dogs.

IOSEFATU SUA

Born and raised in Wellington, New Zealand, Iosefatu Sua was inspired at an early age by street graffiti. Drawing deeply from his Polynesian heritage and his older brother as an influence, Sua developed his street art into elaborate borders and illustrations that have been tagged onto the streets of the Autobahn to California.

Sua currently resides in Seattle, WA where he works as an illustrator/designer. On the side, he exhibits his art at galleries and festivals around the country.

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KENZO MINAMI

A native of Kobe, Japan, Kenzo Minami studied industrial design at the reputable Parsons School in New York City. He began his professional career as a set and prop designer for the Sci-Fi Channel and MTV before branching out into art direction and motion graphics. With friends, Minami formed the artists collective, Panoptic Inc. Soon his work was published in magazines like iD, Flaunt, Blackbook and XLR8R; while his designs were commissioned by VH1, Nike, adidas and Kidrobot. In 2004, he started his own clothing line. Kenzo describes his process as “mixing diverse ideas until a whole new system is created...a controlled chaos.”

Kenzo is featured around the world with contributions in the award-winning “I Am What I Am” campaign by Reebok, to “Remastered”, and “My Heart Belongs to Tokyo”.

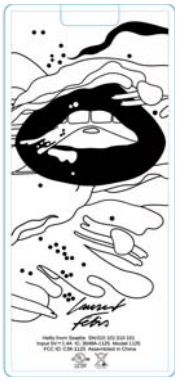
KLAUS HAAPANIEMI

The fashion industry has embraced Finnish born artist Klaus Haapaniemi. Since graduating from the Lahti Design Institute, he has been commissioned by Diesel, Dolce & Gabbana, Cacharel, Marimekko, Selfridges and Levis. His signature style, inspired by folk art and Eastern European cartoons, can be seen in galleries and on catwalks around the globe. Now based in London, Haapaniemi is currently working on a modern version of Robin Hood conveyed in the style of the Japanese Ninja adventures. Klaus gives credit to his grandmother, “When I was a child, my grandmother was designing garments for theatre plays. I always wanted to do huge prints for people to wear.”

LAURENT FETIS

Now a leading representative of French graphic design, Laurent Fetis originally attended The College of Architecture in Versailles before changing his focus and moving onto studying motion graphics, design, and illustration at ENSAD in Paris. In 1999, he set up his own studio and quickly made a splash in the contemporary art, fashion, and music scenes with his postmodern psychedelic aesthetic. Fetis developed collaborations with critically acclaimed musical acts like Beck, Tahiti 80, Mellow, DJ Hell, and M83. He also created artwork for Sofia Coppola's clothing label Milkfed, and supervised the graphic and title design for Roman Coppola's film, "CQ".

His print work has been featured in magazines such as Vogue, Accelerator, Dazed and Confused, The Face, and Nylon. Commercially, Fetis is best known for his film work artist Elizabeth Arkhipoff.



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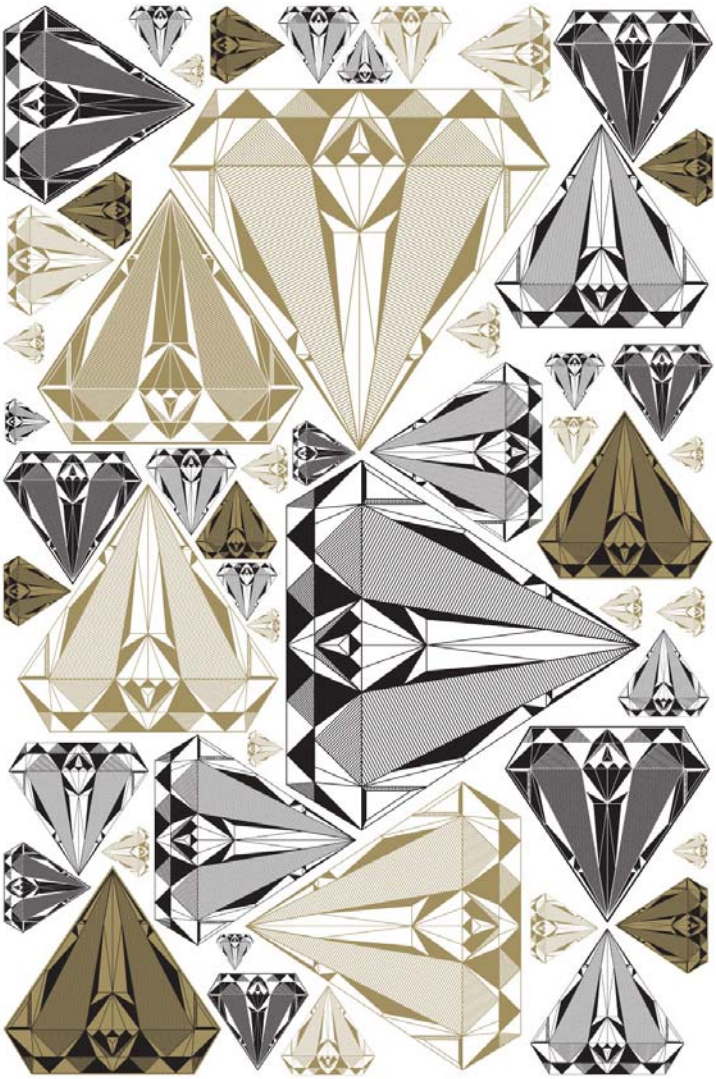
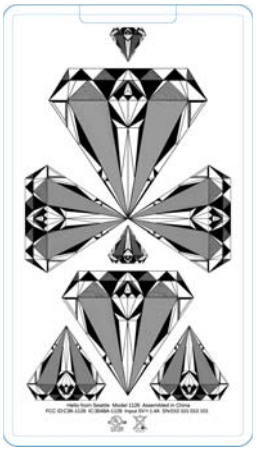


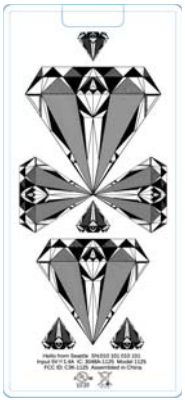
MIKE PERRY

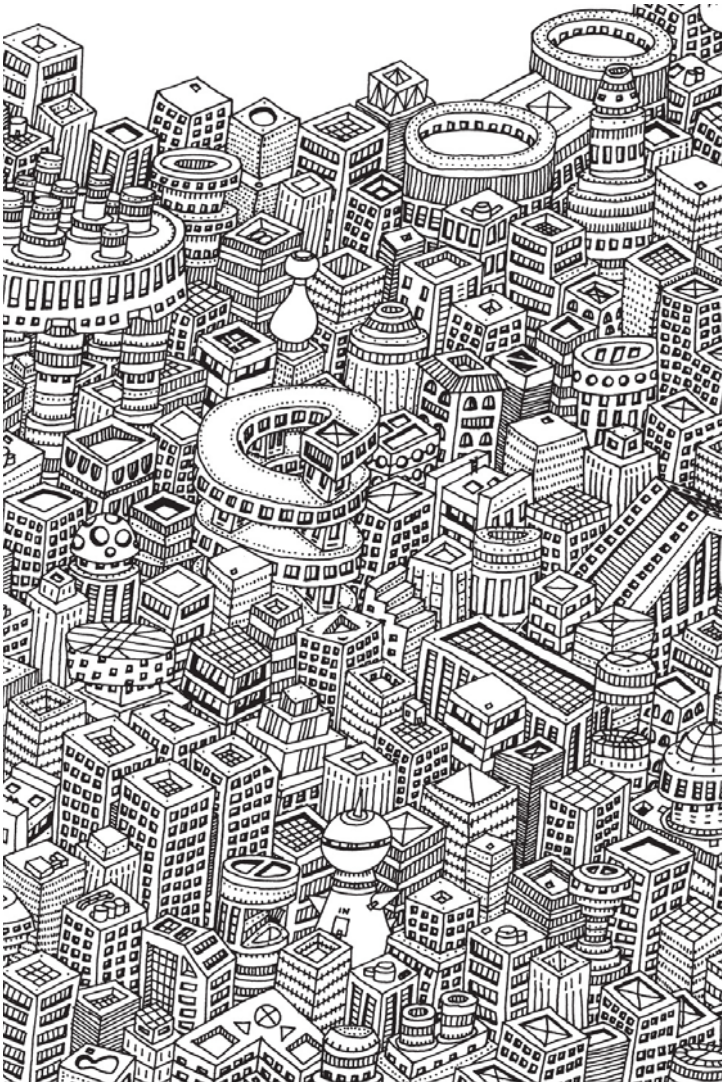
To those familiar with the organic quality of his hand-drawn designs and typography, it's really no surprise that Mike Perry began his education at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design as a painter. Now based in Brooklyn, Perry is recognized as a pioneer in the resurgence of hand-drawn style. His recent book, Hand Job, catalogues 50 different typographers using pen and ink to communicate innovating ideas.

Constantly doodling, Perry focuses as much on the process as he does on the end result. "I have always believed in the generating of piles," he says. Creating new typefaces and sundry graphics, Perry elaborates that "creating is a form of exercise- the more you do it, the stronger you become. Needless to say, I do a lot of 'making' for its own sake."

Perry's designs and illustrations have been featured in Dwell, Jane, and The New York Times Magazine.

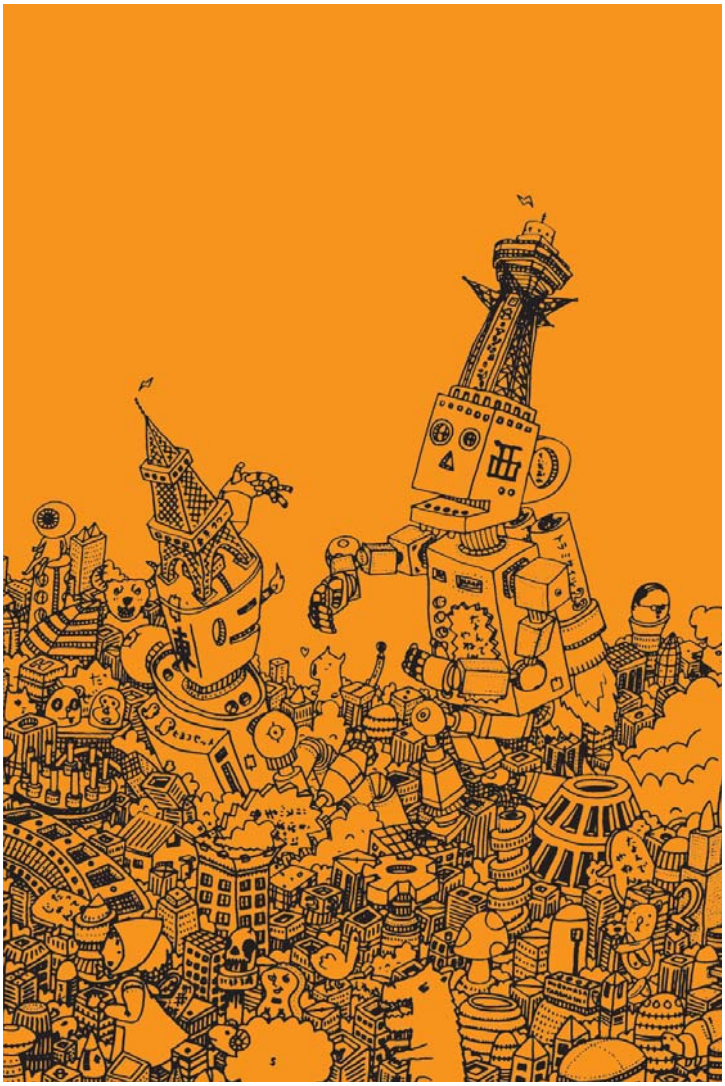






NOBUMASA TAKAHASHI

Illustrator Nobumasa Takahashi has the rare ability to fuse Japanese and Western elements seamlessly to create an entirely new phenomenon. Not limiting himself to one technique or method, Nobumasa compliments this fusion of Eastern and Western rudiments, by connecting his art with a bamboo pen. “The Bamboo pen is utilized to express my emotions, passion, and its harmony with living things.” Recent works of Nobumasa Takahashi expresses a mixed media with matiere. In Love Egon Schiele, Nobumasa likens this liberation of mixing colors to “the beauty of when you pour cream into coffee.” His Japanese Graffiti exhibit, he relied heavily on viewers submitting ideas on a mural that correlated Japanese Graffiti with sumie drawing.



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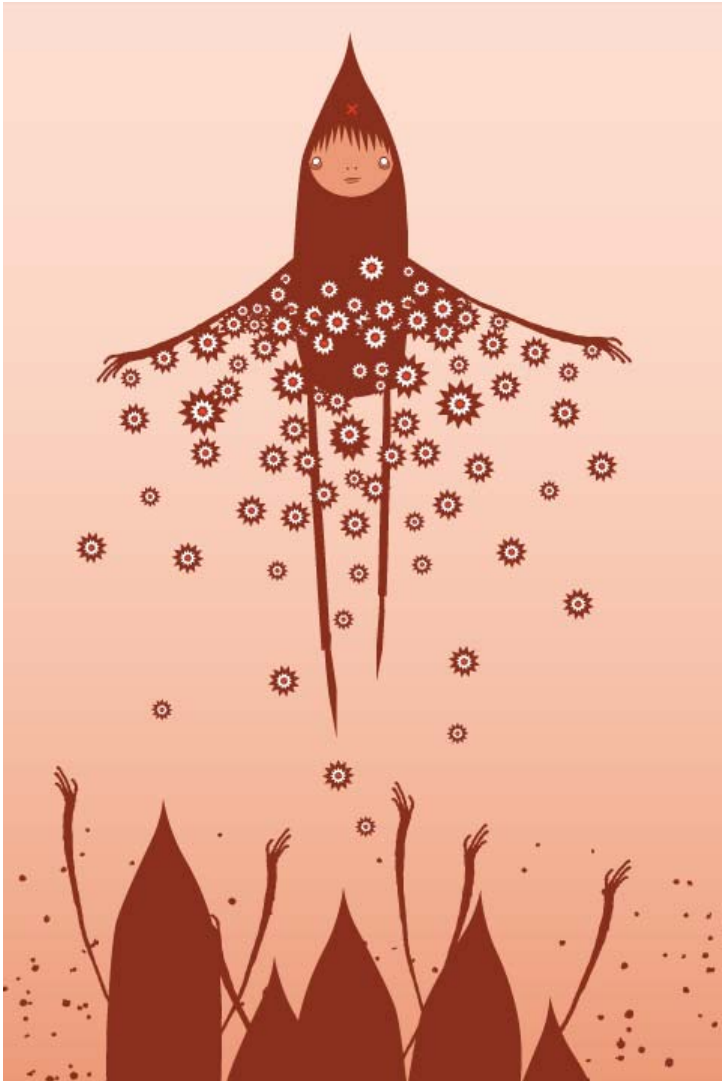
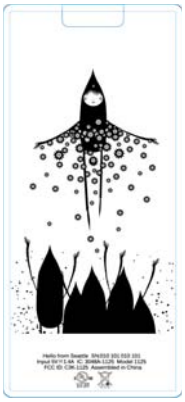
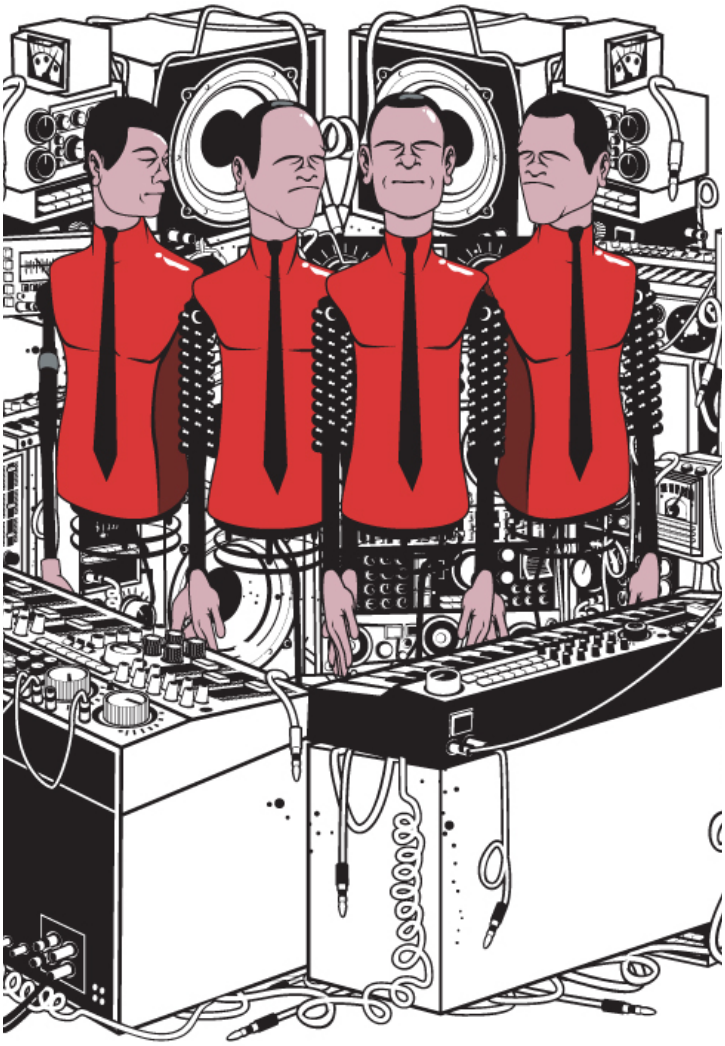


PARSKID

Parskid was born and raised in the Pacific Northwest. He draws inspiration from his childhood, the weather, and rusty surfaces. Growing up in a creative environment, he started drawing as a youngster and later briefly went to art school. His obsession with graffiti began in his twenties and is still evident in his current work of collectibles and toy products.

“My process in coming up with ideas is very free-form. I just start working and see what comes out. Usually very little pre-planning is done. I just try to explore my subconscious thoughts and places that I wouldn’t normally think about in day to day life. There are definitely moments of darkness there, as well as moments of serenity.”

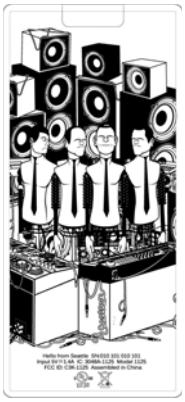




PHUNK STUDIOS

With over ten years in the industry, :phunk shows no signs of slowing down. Formed in 1996, the :phunk team of Jackson Tan, Alvin Tan, William Chan, and Melvin Chee have grown into Asia's leading art and design collective with clientele as diverse as Diesel, MTV Asia, Daimler Chrysler, and Nike. Back in the day, the precocious art school students had no idea they would one day be referred to as "The Champion of Singapore's Graphic Scene" (Creative Review, UK) or "Asia's hottest agency" (Computer Arts, UK); they just thought it would be cool to start a company.

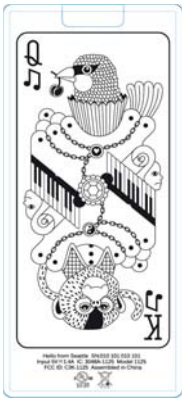
The :phunk visual style seamlessly blends traditional Chinese folklore, Hong Kong pulp fiction, and Japanese manga into a singular idea that reflects the group's multicultural identity.

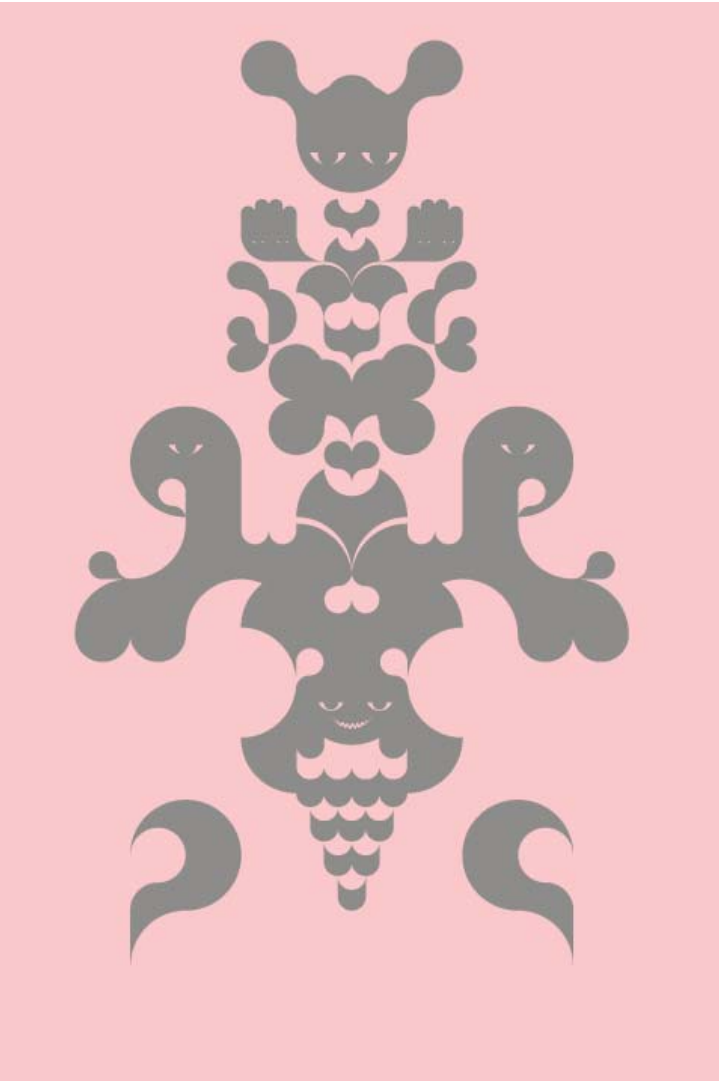


PIERRE MARIE

Pierre Marie started his career as a designer seven years ago. He was still a student when he created fresco boards for the fitting room of L'Eclaireur; which led to collaborations with Agnes B (Artists T-Shirts project) and Melodie Wolf. In 2004, he worked with fellow up-and-comers Romain Kremer, Yoshiko, and Yazbukey. In 2005, Marie designed Etapes magazine's front cover, as well as frequently contributed to Art Forum. For Cream magazine, he designed a-seven double paged sequences titled 'Circles of Love'.

Currently, Pierre is creating the front page of the Tokyo Elle magazine promotional insert, which is included in the national daily Japanese newspaper, Asahi Shimbun.

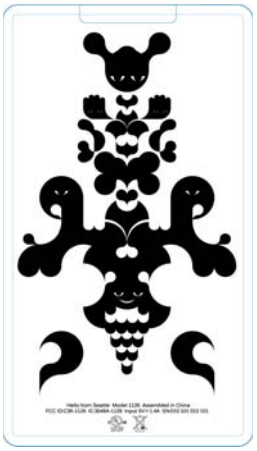


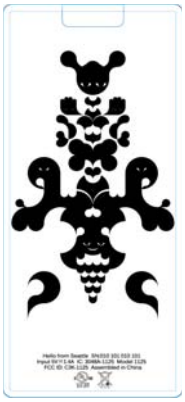


RAMIRO TORRES

Originally from Quito, Ecuador, Ramiro Torres is a multidisciplinary artist who works on film, animation, and design projects. His art combines traditional design, motion graphics, live action, and print.

A fluid style and contemporary sensibility have landed him festivals and collaborations around the world. He's currently working as a film and design director in Seattle, Washington.





SAM FLORES

Fifteen years after first arriving on the West Coast from New Mexico, Sam Flores, an art school evacuee and self-taught illustrator, established his place in the world of Modern Art. With roots in street culture, his designs have fused with Japanese Anime and imaginative illustrations of children's books which generated a large mainstream fan base, but critics are quick to point out the obvious influences of Art Nouveau.

His contemporaries include Shepard Fairey, Mike Giant and David Choe; whose collective bodies of work have forged a pathway for a new and accessible movement within the popular art community. In addition to producing his own clothing line, 12 Grain, Flores is a featured designer for Upper Playground.

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SKWAK

The French illustrator known as Skwak, nee Jim, lists Keith Haring and Hieronymus Bosch as key influences. While this certainly helps explain the frenetic energy in most of his densely populated pieces, don't assume that any of this activity is random. Each element has its precise place and meaning, each creature its own unique agenda- nothing is by accident.

Skawak's latest passion is toy design. Maniac, his first original character, was recently featured in a national campaign for Wienerschnitzel and is one of the most sought after figures on the collectibles market.

"I use toys like I use a canvas. It's another way to extend my universe. The possibility to work in 3D, to appropriate a shape, and to give a new identity and life to a toy is amazing."

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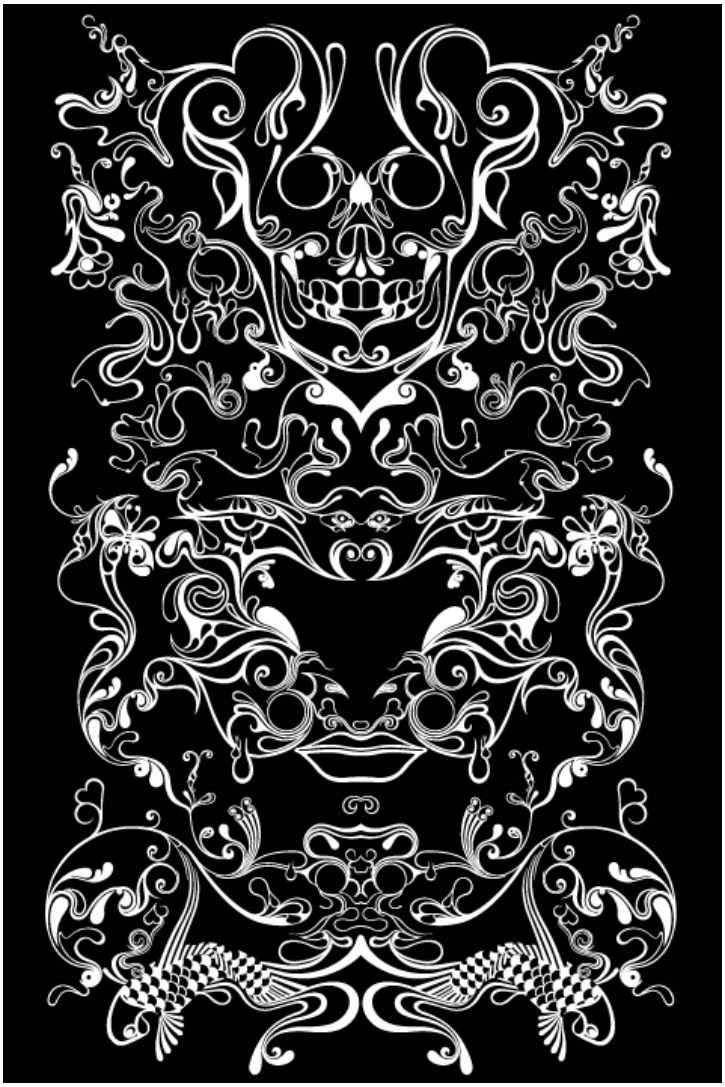

STEVE WILSON

Steve Wilson's psychedelic, free-flowing style has been described as the spirit of the '80s in New York City, unified with the '70s Rock imagery and squeezed through a brain cluttered with circuses and tribal body art. Wilson graduated from Brighton University in 2001 with a degree in illustration and still maintains a home there; preferring the seaside town's eccentric yet cozy vibe to the hustle of central London. In an interview with Beautiful Decay magazine, Wilson explains "The most successful art is made when the artist is able to pick up on the individual characteristics of their culture."

Wilson recently worked with BBH and Vodaphone on the 2007 Live Music Awards billboard campaign featuring Amy Winehouse. He has also been commissioned by The Fader magazine for a piece on Bob Dylan to accompany the November release of the new Dylan biopic 'I'm Not There'.

TADO

TADO's cofounders are Mike and Katie, two Leeds Metropolitan University graduates who specialize in graphic design, illustration, animation, toys, collectibles, along with everything in between. Their alliance formed at school over a mutual love of comics and Japanese horror films. Soon after graduation, they formed TADO and set up shop in Sheffield.

TADO's character-based designs have been sought after by clients like Honda, MTV, and Nike. The pair was recently commissioned by Daimler Chrysler to design a Special Edition Smart Car for Taiwan. TADO is well known amongst designer toy collectors for their collaboration with internationally acclaimed toy company Fling Cat.

Although their work is vibrant and joyous, these little creatures would be a mistake to dismiss it as 'cute'. When interviewed by Lounge 72, Katie described their style as "a visual attack by a pair of rampant chow chows in a sugar-induced fizzy pop massacre." It's easy to see why critics have called TADO's characters "ferociously adorable".